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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method of access control, comprising:
for content accessed by any communications protocol
supported within a system, checking for a content label
identifying a content category for the content;
determining from the content label whether the content
is restricted; and
responsive to determining from the content label that
the content is restricted, prompting a user for a password
required to access the content.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of checking
content accessed by any communications protocol supported
within a system for a content label identifying a content
category for the content further comprises:
checking a content label within the content.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of checking
content accessed by any communications protocol supported
within a system for a content label identifying a content
category for the content further comprises:
checking a content label within a header for a
communications transaction transmitting the content.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of checking
content accessed by any communications protocol supported
within a system for a content label identifying a content
category for the content further comprises:
checking a label bureau for a content label associated
with a uniform resource locator, filename, or datastream

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1 6. A method of establishing access control, comprising:
2 obtaining content label categories and associated user
3 restrictions for desired access control;
4 distributing the content label categories and
5 associated user restrictions to each of a plurality of
6 communications programs within a system, wherein at least
7 two of the communications programs employ different
8 communications protocols; and
9 setting access controls for each communications program
10 within the system utilizing the content label categories and
11 associated user restrictions.

12 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
13 during installation of a communications program
14 subsequent to setting access controls for each
15 communications program within the system utilizing the
16 content label categories and associated user restrictions,
17 checking for existing access control settings for other
18 communications programs and setting access controls for the
19 communications program being installed utilizing the
20 existing access control settings.

1 8. A system for access control, comprising:
2 means for checking content accessed by any
3 communications protocol supported within a system for a
4 content label identifying a content category for the
5 content;
6 means for determining from the content label whether
7 the content is restricted; and
8 means, responsive to determining from the content label
9 that the content is restricted, for prompting a user for a
10 password required to access the content.

1 9. The system of claim 8, wherein the means for checking
2 content accessed by any communications protocol supported
3 within a system for a content label identifying a content
4 category for the content further comprises:

5 means for checking a content label within the content.

1 10. The system of claim 8, wherein the means for checking
2 content accessed by any communications protocol supported
3 within a system for a content label identifying a content
4 category for the content further comprises:

5 means for checking a content label within a header for
6 a communications transaction transmitting the content.

1 11. The system of claim 8, wherein the means for checking
2 content accessed by any communications protocol supported
3 within a system for a content label identifying a content
4 category for the content further comprises:

5 means for checking a label bureau for a content label
6 associated with a uniform resource locator or filename for
7 the content.

means for determining whether any content category identified within the content label is restricted for the user.

[illegible]

1 13. A system for establishing access control, comprising:
2 means for obtaining content label categories and
3 associated user restrictions for desired access control;
4 means for distributing the content label categories and
5 associated user restrictions to each of a plurality of
6 communications programs within a system, wherein at least
7 two of the communications programs employ different
8 communications protocols; and
9 means for setting access controls for each
10 communications program within the system utilizing the
11 content label categories and associated user restrictions.

12 14. The system of claim 13, further comprising:
13 means operable during installation of a communications
14 program subsequent to setting access controls for each
15 communications program within the system utilizing the
16 content label categories and associated user restrictions
17 for checking for existing access control settings for other
18 communications programs and for setting access controls for
19 the communications program being installed utilizing the
20 existing access control settings.

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1 15. A computer program product within a computer usable
2 medium for access control, comprising:

3 instructions for checking content accessed by any
4 communications protocol supported within a system for a
5 content label identifying a content category for the
6 content;

7 instructions for determining from the content label
8 whether the content is restricted; and

9 instructions, responsive to determining from the
10 content label that the content is restricted, for prompting
11 a user for a password required to access the content.

12 16. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the
13 instructions for checking content accessed by any
14 communications protocol supported within a system for a
15 content label identifying a content category for the content
16 further comprises:

17 instructions for checking a content label within the
18 content.

19 17. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the
20 instructions for checking content accessed by any
21 communications protocol supported within a system for a
22 content label identifying a content category for the content
23 further comprises:

24 instructions for checking a content label within a
25 header for a communications transaction transmitting the
26 content.

27 18. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the
28 instructions for checking content accessed by any
29 communications protocol supported within a system for a

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4 content label identifying a content category for the content
5 further comprises:

6 instructions for checking a label bureau for a content
7 label associated with a uniform resource locator or filename
8 for the content.

1 19. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the
2 instructions for determining from the content label whether
3 the content is restricted further comprises:

4 instructions for determining one or more content
5 categories from the content label; and

6 instructions for determining whether any content
7 category identified within the content label is restricted
8 for the user.

1 20. A computer program product within a computer usable
2 medium for establishing access control, comprising:
3 instructions for obtaining content label categories and
4 associated user restrictions for desired access control;
5 instructions for distributing the content label
6 categories and associated user restrictions to each of a
7 plurality of communications programs within a system,
8 wherein at least two of the communications programs employ
9 different communications protocols; and
10 instructions for setting access controls for each
11 communications program within the system utilizing the
12 content label categories and associated user restrictions.

13 21. The computer program product of claim 20, further
14 comprising:
15

16 instructions executed during installation of a
17 communications program subsequent to setting access controls
18 for each communications program within the system utilizing
19 the content label categories and associated user
20 restrictions for checking for existing access control
21 settings for other communications programs and for setting
22 access controls for the communications program being
23 installed utilizing the existing access control settings.